

NEWS BRIEFING

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARTHUR SYLVESTER

The Pentagon

3:35 P.M.

October 27, 1962

MR. SYLVESTER: First, let me respond to an inquiry we have had from a number of you gentlemen, and that had to do with the presence of missiles of any kind in Turkey. "What are they?" we've been asked. The answer to that is as follows:

"Pursuant to the NATO Council Resolution of December, 1957, JUPITER missiles have been made available to the Turkish Armed Forces. U. S. training personnel are in Turkey in conjunction with the operation of the JUPITER missiles which met a specific NATO requirement and are formally committed to NATO."

Now I would like to make another statement. We have been asked about reports of anti-aircraft fire from Cuba. In that connection I have been authorized to make the following statement:

"The resolution adopted on October 23, 1962, by the Organ of Consultation of the Inter-American System recognized that the security of the Western Hemisphere requires continuous surveillance of Cuba. Any infringement with such surveillance will meet condemnation and surveillance will be enforced."

QUESTION: Does that mean we will drop bombs, strafe, or what if they shoot anti-aircraft at us?

MR. SYLVESTER: I am not prepared to go beyond the statement.

QUESTION: Does that mean that some of our aerial surveillance planes have been shot at?

MR. SYLVESTER: I am not in a position to comment. I have no information.

QUESTION: That query is left unanswered?

MR. SYLVESTER: That query is left unanswered.

QUESTION: Are you in the process to try to confirm or is that so far as you can go?

MR. SYLVESTER: That is as far as I can go now for the time being.

QUESTION: Can you say "yes" or "no"?

MR. SYLVESTER: As I have said right along these things act very swiftly and we moved on this immediately rather than wait until four o'clock.

QUESTION: Are you saying you don't know whether there is an emergency?

MR. SYLVESTER: I didn't say that. I am not in a position to make any comment one way or another.

QUESTION: Do you have anything to say about any further interceptions?

MR. SYLVESTER: No, to the best of my knowledge there have been none.

QUESTION: Have they intercepted Vern Haugland yet?

MR. SYLVESTER: As a matter of fact, the reports we got at the time described the color of the ship, the plane he was in and all about him.

QUESTION: They can tell by his shape that he was not carrying -- the Cuban Radio reported a ship from Canada with potatoes aboard having passed through the blockade. Do you know anything about that?

MR. SYLVESTER: A ship from Canada with potatoes?

QUESTION: Yes.

MR. SYLVESTER: I am not aware of any such. They are not on the list.

QUESTION: Art, can you say that no Americans have been injured or wounded as a result of fire from Cuba?

MR. SYLVESTER: So far as I know.

QUESTION: Can you try to check that a little more definitely?

MR. SYLVESTER: I certainly will.

QUESTION Do you have anything else, Art?

MR. SYLVESTER Not a thing.

QUESTION Is it the four o'clock conference?

MR. SYLVESTER Let us let it go at that. It was not intended for four. It was to get this out immediately. I don't expect anything. But stay loose. I can never tell. I might come back in a half an hour.

THE PRESS. Thank you.

- 30 -

EXTRACT FOLLOWS

NEWS RELEASE

PLEASE NOTE DATE



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Washington 25, D. C.

October 27, 1962

NO. 1752-62

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SECRETARY SYLVESTER

The resolution adopted on October 23, 1962 by the Organ of Consultation of the Inter-American System recognized that the security of the Western Hemisphere requires continuous surveillance of Cuba.

Any interference with such surveillance will meet counter-action and surveillance will be enforced.

EEND